

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace previously amended paragraph [0002] with the following rewritten paragraph, marked to show changes from the application as originally filed instead as rewritten in the previous amendment:

[0002] This application is related to U.S. application ~~09/###,###~~, 09/016,826, filed November 9, 2001 by ~~inventors~~ Harvey A. ~~Schwertner~~, Schwertner and Joseph R. Fisher, Jr., ~~Robert Kisselburgh, Ming Wei, Larry W. Gibbons, Qintian Zheng and Steven N. Blair, and by Tedd L. Mitchell,~~ now U.S. Patent 6,720,189, titled Bilirubin Tests as Risk Predictors for Cancer Mortality, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Gilbert's Syndrome and All-Cause Mortality, the invention description of which is incorporated by reference into this application. U.S. ~~application 09/###,###~~ Patent 6,720,189 and this application are based on a related series of studies of the utility of bilirubin tests as a risk predictor for various diseases.